

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00131 181502Z
ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
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R 181315Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3161
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0131

LIMDIS
REF : PARAMARIBO 0119 DTG 151233Z FEB 77

1. PRIME MINISTER ARRON TOLD AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 17 THAT HE INTENDS TO CALL ELECTIONS DURING THE SUMMER, BEFORE THE MOSLEM MONTH OF FASTING, RAMADAN, WHICH BEGINS AUGUST 17. ARRON SAID THAT HE WAS GIVING AMBASSADOR THIS INFORMATION IN CONFIDENCE SINCE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAD NOT YET BEEN CONSULTED OR INFORMED.

2. ARRON APPEARED CONFIDENT OF WINNING ELECTIONS AND SAID PROBLEM WAS NOT VICTORY BUT RATHER WHETHER NPK COMBINATION COULD INCREASE ITS SEATS IN PARLIAMENT. HE BELIEVES MAXIMUM POSSIBLE NUMBER IS 24 (OUT OF 39) AS COMPARED WITH PRESENT 20. HE SAID HE WAS ANXIOUS TO BRING DISSIDENT-HINDUSTANI HINDTRIE INTO THE GOVERNMENT AND WOULD DO THIS PROVIDED HINDORIE'S PARTY (HPP) COULD MAKE A REASONABLE SHOWING IN THE ELECTIONS. IN PARTICULAR, HE NOTED THAT NICKERIE DISTRICT HAS MAJORITY OF HINDUSTANIS WHO NORMALLY VOTE FOR LACHMON'S VHP. SINCE NPK KNOWS IT CAN-

NOT WIN NICKERIE'S TWO SEATS, IT WILL THROW ITS SUPPORT BEHIND HINDORIE IN HOPE THAT ITS ADHERENTS, PLUS THOSE HINDORIE CAN ATTRACT FROM VHP, WILL GIVE HPP VICTORY IN THIS DISTRICT. ARRON SAID HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT FTR THE NATION TO HAVE
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HINDUSTANI REPRESENTATION IN THE CABINET BUT THAT ANY COALITION WITH VHP WAS IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS TIME.

3. ARRON INDICATED THAT CABINET WILL BE INCREASED BY TWO AFTER ELECTIONS. HE IS ANXIOUS TO GIVE UP FINANCE PORTFOLIO WHICH HE SAID IS TOO MUCH FOR HIM ALONG WITH HIS OTHER DUTIES (PRIME

MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR GENERAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS). HE WILL
GIVE THIS JOB TO A MEMBER OF HIS OWN PARTY, NPS. THE SECOND
ADDITION WILL BE CAUSED BY THE APPOINTMENT OF A FULL-TIME
MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN WHAT ARRON DESCRIBED AS A "SMALL"
INDEPENDENT DEFENSE MINISTRY (MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND POLICE
HOOST IS PRESENTLY ALSO ACTING MINISTER OF DEFENSE). ARRON
NOTED THAT THIS SECOND POSITION WILL PROVIDE INCREASE WHICH WILL

ALLOW HINDORIE TO COME INTO CABINET BUT THAT THIS WOULD NOT
NECESSARILY MEAN THAT HINDORIE WOULD BE MINISTER OF DEFENSE,
SINCE OTHERS MIGHT BE SHUFFLED AROUND. ZURHELLEN

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NNN

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